THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1905.

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER *v.* LYDNEY.

Lydney's discomfiture to-day was complete, the team being out-played at all points. The loss of the ground record was in itself a keen disappointment to the home spectators, but to go under by such a decisive margin was a veritable staggerer to all concerned. Twenty-two points to nil, however, scarcely indicates the immense superiority of the City team, who, playing brilliant football, excelled in all departments.

Gloucester were fairly at the top of their form, and the times the side just failed to score could not be counted on the fingers of the two hands. That Lydney are capable of a better performance can hardly be refuted, but taking the game as played to-day, they were simply not in it.

Gloucester commenced in earnest, and after the first try the result was never in doubt. The ground was treacherous on top, but this had little effect on the play of the visitors, who brought into use tactics of a truly delightful character.

Forward, Lydney now and again showed cleverness and resource, but as a combination they failed completely to come up to the standard expected. The backs were decidedly off, and mistakes in fielding were of common occurrence. Austin Lewis tried hard to stem the tide of disaster, and the County man did a lot of good defensive work, but his efforts availed little against the side opposed to him.

Towards the finish Lydney made brave efforts to effect a score, but the men were lacking in finish at the critical moment, and the end came with the Tinplaters beaten at home by the biggest margin experienced for a very long time.

To Gloucester every praise is due for their handsome triumph. The whole team performed splendidly, but if one man stood out above his colleagues it was Albert Hall. Standing outside half to Gent, the West End captain displayed wonderful resource, and made openings innumerable for his side. Jack Jones and Miles put in all they knew to circumvent the Gloucestrian, but they were outwitted again and again in a manner that called forth repeated applause from the spectators.

Gent, very closely watched, was not so successful as usual in getting the ball away from the scrum, and he was robbed by the opposing pair more than once. Occasionally, however, he showed extreme cleverness and more than one bout of lovely passing followed as a result of his initiation.

The Gloucester three-quarters wee all in capital form, and when set going they fairly bewildered the opposing quartette. Harrison and E. Hall, in the centre, were ever in evidence, and if at times the transfers went wrong, there was very little to complain about in their general play.

Hudson and "Whacker" Smith, on the respective wings, both showed to advantage, combining dash and trickiness with a good deal of headwork. The tries scored by these players were well deserved. With anything like luck they might easily have been credited with a couple more points each.

Considering the amount of attacking put in by the Gloucester rear division, it was marvellous that Lydney got off so cheaply, but in this respect a word of commendation is due to the Tinplaters for their plucky tackling. For the major portion of the second half Downing stood outside as an extra three-quarter, and he assisted in a good deal of the spoiling.

The Gloucester forwards, except at rare intervals, fairly swamped the opposition in the loose, Matthews, Collins, and Hawker being, perhaps, the most conspicuous. The other players, however, were always well up, Sly (who came in as reserve for Gordon Vears) doing excellent work.

If any complaint can be urged against the visiting pack, it was a slackness in tackling, the collaring being too high. For Lydney, Nelmes, Downing, and Probert were a sound trio, using their feet well when opportunity arose.

At full-back Romans overshadowed Ellaway, who was uncertain, and gave away at least one try. Though greatly disappointed at the heaviness of the defeat, the Lydney crowd gave the Gloucester players a very hearty reception at the close, and freely admitted that on the day's play the home team were a thoroughly beaten side.

RESULT :
Gloucester ..... 2 goals, 4 tries (22 points)
Lydney ..... Nil

D. R. Gent, the Gloucester half-back, has accepted an invitation to play for Glamorgan against Somerset on Wednesday at Bath, in place of Owen, who is injured.

JC